

Fifteen years ago, June 23, 1982, the federal debt stood at \$1,070,166,000,000. (One trillion, seventy billion, one hundred sixty-six million)

Twenty-five years ago, June 23, 1972, the federal debt stood at \$425,755,000,000 (Four hundred twenty-five billion, seven hundred fifty-five million) which reflects a debt increase of nearly \$5 trillion—\$4,907,027,057,516.70 (Four trillion, nine hundred seven billion, twenty-seven million, fifty-seven thousand, five hundred sixteen dollars and seventy cents) during the past 25 years.

REACTION TO HOUSE MFN VOTE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, today the House in effect approved President Clinton's renewal of most-favored-nation status for the People's Republic of China. The House failed to adopt a resolution disapproving of Mr. Clinton's renewal of MFN for China.

The House thus squandered its opportunity to send a strong signal to the Clinton administration that its policy of engagement with China has not worked.

The administration, and others supporting MFN, insisted that they were willing to pressure China on human rights, on trade, on proliferation, and on Hong Kong. They just didn't believe, they insisted repeatedly, that MFN is the way to do it.

Fair enough, Mr. President. Taking supporters of MFN at their word, I hope Senators will make clear that if MFN isn't the proper tool to use in trying to influence China on such matters, what is the proper tool? By renewing MFN, President Clinton and supporters of MFN for China, have taken on a new burden—to show they are serious about finding a way to persuade China to stop abusing its citizens rights, stop unfair trade practices, stop sending weapons of mass destruction to rogue regimes, and live up to its commitments on Hong Kong.

The debate over China policy is far from over. During the coming weeks and months, I will be considering new measures on China.

For example, Mr. President, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will hold hearings on legislation to deal with serious problems in the United States-China relationship, and on the commercial activities of the People's Liberation Army in the United States.

I do hope that Senators who have asserted that there is a better way to influence China than revoking MFN will work with the Foreign Relations Committee in finding that better way.

HONORING THE ZINZERS ON THEIR 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, families are the cornerstone of America. The data are undeniable: Individuals from strong families contribute to the society. In an era when nearly half of all couples married today will see their union dissolve into divorce, I believe it

is both instructive and important to honor those who have taken the commitment of "till death us do part" seriously, demonstrating successfully the timeless principles of love, honor, and fidelity. These characteristics make our country strong.

For these important reasons, I rise today to honor Dorothy and Roy Zinzer of Affton, Missouri, who on June 19, 1997, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. My wife, Janet, and I look forward to the day we can celebrate a similar milestone. The Zinzers' commitment to the principles and values of their marriage deserves to be saluted and recognized.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:58 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1532. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to create criminal penalties for theft and willful vandalism at national cemeteries.

H.R. 1553. An act to amend the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 to extend the authorization of the Assassination Records Review Board until September 30, 1998.

H.R. 1581. An act to reauthorize the program established under chapter 44 of title 28, United States Code, relating to arbitration.

H.R. 1866. An act to continue favorable treatment for need-based educational aid under the antitrust laws.

H.R. 1901. An act to clarify that the protections of the Federal Tort Claims Act apply to the members and personnel of the National Gambling Impact Study Commission.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The message also announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 363. An act to amend section 2118 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to extend the Electric and Magnetic Fields Research and Public Information Dissemination program.

The enrolled bill was signed subsequently by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1532. An act to direct the United States Sentencing Commission to provide sentencing enhancement for offenses against property at national cemeteries; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 1581. An act to reauthorize the program established under chapter 44 of title 28, United States Code, relating to arbitration; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following measure was read the second time and placed on the calendar:

S. 950. A bill to provide for equal protection of the law and to prohibit discrimina-

tion and preferential treatment on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in Federal actions, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-2314. A communication from the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "Homelessness Assistance and Management Reform Act of 1997"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2315. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, five rules entitled "HOME Investment Partnership Program" (FR-3962), received on June 23, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2316. A communication from the Director, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation relative to judicial review to protect the merit system; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2317. A communication from the CFO and Plan Administrator, PCA Retirement Committee, First South Production Credit Association, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the annual pension plan ending December 31, 1996; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2318. A communication from the Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the system of internal accounting and financial controls in effect during fiscal year 1996; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2319. A communication from the Executive Director, Committee for Purchase from People Who are Blind or Severely Disabled, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule relative to employment of the blind and disabled, received on June 17, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2320. A communication from the Inspector General, U.S. Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report for the period October 1, 1996 through March 31, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2321. A communication from the Executive Director of the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Strategic Plan; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following reports of committee were submitted:

By Mr. WARNER, from the Committee on Rules and Administration:

Special Report entitled "Printing Pictures of Missing Children on Senate Mail" (Rept. No. 105-34).

By Mr. MCCONNELL, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 955. An original bill making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 105-35).